



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

1701 E Street • Lincoln NE 68508 • Phone: 402.438.9222 • Fax: 402.438.9226

February 25, 2021

Office of Child Care
Ellen Wheatley, Ph.D., Acting Director
Mary E. Switzer Building, Fourth Floor, MS 4425
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Director Wheatley,

This letter will outline how the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska (PTN) plans to spending funding provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). The Ponca Tribe has preliminary ideas how to spend the funding but we do acknowledge that these are only ideas and things may likely change.

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will continue to provide subsidies to essential or frontline workers as requested. PTN operates a subsidy program through the regular CCDF dollars and has attempted to recruit families to the program in order to assist with necessary child care funding.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has provided and will continue to provide child care agencies and providers with necessary supplies and equipment to meet current health and safety requirements under guidance of local health departments. PTN has provided sanitizing wands, masks, and approved cleaning supplies to our current child care providers. The plan is to provide further resources, supplies, and equipment to child care agencies and providers throughout the Service Delivery Area.

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has been working with current child care providers to ensure that they remain open to provide for the safety and care for children during this pandemic. PTN has been in regular communication with current providers to assist with child care bills based on enrollment and not attendance. The current providers have been grateful for any assistance that we have been able to provide and have provided all documentation requested.

Assistance to Provider Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska plans to send letters to all child care agencies and providers within the Service Delivery Area in order to discuss the funding and to provide funding for mini-grants to eligible providers. The mini-grants will be allow providers that the Ponca Tribe wouldn't normally work with to continue to provide care for children. There are a number of providers throughout the Service Delivery Area and any mini-grant will be afforded on a first-come, first-

served basis. In order to assist as many providers as possible, the preliminary thought would be to provide mini-grants of less than \$1,000.

Other

At the current time, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska does not plan to utilize a portion of the CRRSA funds for anything other than ideas outlined above.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Child Care Program appreciates the additional funding and strives to provide relevant and easy to access assistance to provide for the health and safety of children and staff.

If you have any questions please contact me, I have outlined my information below.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephanie Pospisil
Social Services Director
CCDF Tribal Administrator
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
1701 E Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
spospisil@poncatrib-ne.org
402-438-9222 phone

